
LESSON 28

In this lesson we learn the following :

#(1) اَلْمَفْعُولُ الْمُطْلَق (the absolute object) : It is the *masdar* of the verb occurring in the sentence used along with the verb for the sake of emphasis. It is *mansûb*, e.g., ضَرَبَنِي بِلالٌ ضَرْباً 'Bilal beat me a beating.' The words ضَرَبَنِي بِلالٌ convey the meaning, but you can say this even if he did not actually beat you, but merely raised his hand, or gently placed his hand on your body. But you can say ضَرَبَنِي بِلالٌ ضَرْباً only when he gave you a real beating.

The *maf'ûl mutlaq* has four uses. It is used :

a) to emphasize as we have just seen. Here is another example : وَكَلَّمَ اللهُ مُوسَى تَكْلِيماً 'And Allah spoke to Mûsâ directly' (Qur'an, 4:164).

b) to specify the number, e.g., طُبِعَ الْكِتَابُ طَبْعَتَيْنِ 'The book was printed twice.' -- نَسِيتُ وَسَجَدْتُ سَجْدَةً وَاحِدَةً 'I forgot and performed only one *sajdah*.'

c) to specify the type of action, e.g., مَاتَ مَوْتَ الشُّهَدَاءِ 'He died the death of martyrs.' -- أُكْتُبْ كِتَابَةً وَاضِحَةً 'Write legibly' (literally, 'write a clear writing').

d) as a substitute for the verb. In this case only the *masdar* is used, e.g., صَبْراً 'Have patience!' Here the *masdar* is a substitute for the *amr* اِصْبِرْ -- شُكْراً 'I thank you.' Here the *masdar* is a substitute for the *mudâri'* أَشْكُرُ 'I thank.'

Words which deputize for the *masdar* :

The following words deputize for the *masdar*, and are therefore *mansûb*, and are grammatically regarded as *maf'ûl mutlaq* :

1) the words كُلّ، بَعْض، أَيّ with the *masdar* as their *mudâf ilaihi*, e.g.,

أَعْرِفُهُ كُلَّ الْمَعْرِفَةِ 'I know him fully well.'

آخَذَنِي الْمُدِيرُ بَعْضَ الْمُؤَاخَذَةِ 'The headmaster punished me to some extent.'

أيَّ نَــومٍ تنــامُ؟ 'What sort of sleep are you sleeping?' In the Qur'an (26:227) : وَسَيَعْلَمُ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا أَيَّ مُنْقَلَبٍ يَنْقَلِبُــونَ 'And those who do wrong will come to know how they will end up.'

2) a number with the *masdar* as its *tamyîz*[1], e.g.,

طُبِعَ الكتـــابُ ثَــلاثَ طَبَعــاتٍ 'The book was printed thrice.' In the Qur'an : فَاجْلِدُوا كُلَّ واحدٍ منهما مائَةَ جَلْــدَةٍ '...flog each one of them a hundred stripes' (24:2). -- فَاجْلِدُوهُمْ ثَمانِينَ جَلْدَةً '...flog them eighty stripes' (24:4).

3) an adjective of the *masdar* (the *masdar* itself being omitted), e.g., فَهِمْتُ الدَّرْسَ جَيِّداً 'I understood the lesson well.' This is for فهمتُ الدرسَ فَهْماً جَيِّـــداً which literally means 'I understood the lesson with a good understanding.'

4) *ism al-masdar* (اسْمُ المَصْدَر) : It is a word which has the same meaning as the *masdar*, but has less letters than it, e.g., كَلامٌ 'speaking' is *ism al-masdar*, and تَكْلِيمٌ is *masdar*; قُبْلَةٌ 'kiss' is *ism al-masdar*, and تَقْبِيلٌ is *masdar*.

كَلَّمَني كَلاماً شَديداً 'He spoke to me harsh words.'

5) a cognate *masdar* : It is :

(a) the *masdar* of the *mujarrad* verb while the verb used in the sentence is *mazîd*, e.g., اشْتَرَيْتُ هذه السيّارةَ شِراءً مُباشِراً 'I bought this car directly.' Here شِــراءً is the *masdar* of the *mujarrad* verb شَرَى يَشْرِي 'to buy' whereas the *masdar* of اشْتَرَى يَشْتَرِي is اشْتِراءٌ. Here is an example fro the Qur'an (89:20) وتُحِبُّونَ المالَ حُبّاً جَمّــاً 'And you love wealth with abounding love.' Here حُبّاً is the *masdar* of the *mujarrad* verb حَبَّ يَحِبُّ (a-i) which is very rarely used, whereas the *masdar* of the *mazîd* verb أَحَبَّ يُحِبُّ is إِحْبابٌ and this *masdar* is

[1]- The *tamyîz* (التَّمْيِيز) is a word used to specify a vague idea. The *tamyîz* of the number may be *majrûr* or *mansûb* e.g. ثَلاثَةُ كُتُبٍ، عشْرون كتاباً

very rarely used.

(b) a *masdar* of a *mazîd bâb* which is different from the *bâb* of the verb. e.g., تَبَسَّمْتُ ابْتِسَاماً 'I smiled.' Here ابْتِساماً is the *masdar* of the verb ابْتَسَمَ, which belongs to *bâb* افْتَعَلَ, whereas the verb تَبَسَّمَ belongs to *bâb* تَفَعَّلَ, and both have the same meaning. In the Qur'an (73:8) وَتَبَتَّلْ إِلَيْهِ تَبْتِيلاً 'And devote yourself to Him with complete devotion.' Here the verb تَبَتَّلَ belongs to *bâb* تَفَعَّلَ whereas the *masdar* is from *bâb* فَعَّلَ.

6) a demontrative pronoun with the *masdar* as its *badal*, e.g., أَتَسْتَقْبِلُنِي هذا الاسْتِقْبالَ؟ 'Do you accord me this kind of reception?' Here هذا is the *maf'ûl mutlaq*, and so it is في مَحَلِّ نصْب, and الاسْتِقْبالَ is its *badal*.

7) a pronoun referring to the *masdar*, e.g., اجْتَهَدْتُ اجْتِهاداً لَمْ يَجْتَهِدْهُ غيري 'I worked hard in a way nobody else did.' Here the pronoun هُ stand for اجْتِهاداً.

8) a synonym of the *masdar*, e.g., عِشْتُ حَياةً سَعيدةً 'I lived a happy life.' Here حَياةً 'life' is synonymous with عيْشَةً derived from عاشَ.

#(2) There are many kinds of *masdar*.

a) One of them is مَصْدَرُ المَرَّة. This *masdar* denotes how many times the action took place, once, twice, thrice ... It is on the pattern of فَعْلَةٌ (**fa'lat**-un), e.g., ضَرَبْتُهُ ضَرْبَةً، وضَرَبَنِي ضَرْبَتَيْنِ 'I hit him once, and he hit me twice.' طُبِعَ هذا الكتابُ طَبَعاتٍ 'This book has been printed several times.' طَبَعاتٌ (**taba'ât**-un) is the plural of طَبْعَةٌ.

In the *abwâb* of the *mazîd* the *masdar al-marrah* is formed by adding ة to the original *masdar*, e.g., تَكْبِيرٌ : تَكْبِيرَةٌ 'saying "Ahhahu akbar" once', إِطْلالٌ 'peeping out' : إِطْلالَةٌ 'peeping out once', e.g., نُكَبِّرُ أَرْبَعَ تَكْبِيراتٍ في الصلاة

عَلَى المَيِّتِ 'We say 'Allahu akbar' four times in the funeral prayer.' أَطْلَلْتُ مِنَ النافذة إِطْلاَلَتَيْنِ 'I looked down from the window twice,'

b) Another kind of the *masdar* is مَصْدَرُ الهَيْئَة (the *masdar* of manner). It is on the pattern of فِعْلَةٌ (**fi'lat**-un), e.g., جِلْسَةٌ 'manner of sitting', مِشْيَةٌ 'manner of walking'. We say, لا تَمْشِ مِشْيَةَ النِّساءِ 'Don't walk like women.' اجْلِسْ جِلْسَةَ طالِبِ عِلْمٍ 'Sit as students sit.'

Note that that the first letter has *fathah* in the *masdar al-marrah*, and *kasrah* in the *masdar al-hai'ah*.

Masdar al-hai'ah is not formed from the *mazîd abwâb*.

c) Another kind of the *masdar* is the *masdar mîmî* (المَصْدَرُ المِيمِيُّ). It is on the pattern of مَفْعَلٌ / مَفْعَلَةٌ (**maf'al**-un / **maf'alat**-un) and مَفْعِلٌ / مَفْعِلَةٌ (**maf 'il**-un / **maf'ilat**-un), e.g., مَمَاتٌ 'death', مَعْرِفَةٌ 'knowledge', مَغْفِرَةٌ 'forgiveness'.

In the *mazîd abwâb* it is the same as the *ism al-maf'ûl*, e.g., مُمَزَّقٌ 'tearing asunder', مُخْرَجٌ 'taking out', مُنْقَلَبٌ 'return'. In the Qur'an, فَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ أَحادِيثَ وَمَزَّقْنَاهُمْ كُلَّ مُمَزَّقٍ 'So We made them tales, and totally scattered them' (34:19).

✍Exercises

1) Answer the following questions.

3a) Point out all the instances of *maf'ûl mutlaq* occurring in the main lesson, and specify the signification of each of them.

3b) Point out words deputizing for the *masdar* in the examples of the *maf'ûl mutlaq*.

4) Point out the instances of *maf'ûl mutlaq* occurring in the following sentences, and specify the signification of each of them.

5) Point out words deputizing for the *masdar* in the following examples of the *maf'ûl mutlaq*.

6) Complete the sentence ...سَجَدْتُ with three instances of *maf'ûl mutlaq*. In the first instance it should specify the number, in the second the type of action and in the third it should signify emphasis.

7) Mention all the words that deputize for the *masdar* in the *maf'ûl mutlaq*.

8) Give three examples of the *masdar* which functions as a substitute for the verb.

9) Derive *masdar al-marrah* from each of the following verbs.

10) Derive *masdar al-hai'ah* from each of the following verbs.